



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT - 3 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Under Secretary
Assistant Secretaries
Acting Assistant Secretaries
Chief Information Officer

FROM: Linda Cheatham
Chief Financial Officer and
Director of Administration

SUBJECT: FY2006 Guidance for Operating under a Continuing
Resolution

A Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating October 1 through November 18 has been passed by Congress and signed by the President.

ITA will receive its CR funding through the Department of Commerce and OMB and will provide these funding levels to program offices as soon as possible. Funding will be sufficient for the continuity of essential operations but increases in the scope of ongoing projects or initiation of new projects is not permitted.

A CR is an interim appropriation, enacted to provide authority for specific ongoing activities in the event that regular appropriations have not been enacted by the beginning of the fiscal year or the expiration of the previous CR. A CR has a fixed life and provides the authority necessary to allow operations to continue in the absence of appropriations. A CR remains in effect until:

1. Enactment into law of a regular appropriations act;
2. Enactment of another CR; or
3. A fixed cutoff date as stated in the CR.

A short term CR (for less than the remainder of the fiscal year) differs from an appropriations act. While an appropriations act appropriates specified amounts, a CR generally appropriates "such amounts as may be necessary" for continuing operations in support of projects or activities at a rate of obligation not in excess of the previous year's rate, the rate requested in the President's budget, or the rate provided in congressional appropriations committee marks, whichever is the lowest or most restrictive of

- The previous year's rate,
- The rate requested in the President's budget, or
- The rate provided in the congressional appropriations committee marks.

The language authorizing the CR generally specifies how funding rates should be calculated.



If you have questions concerning CR operations, please contact Amy Duncan at (202)482-5739.

cc: Resources Coordinators